3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RB1 Baltic Countries

Letts RB4
Lithuanians RB

LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE BALTIC STATES

MORE strict control of workers is indicated by laws recently enacted in Latvia and Lithuania.

Forced Labor Service in Latvia [1]

La 466 [462]

The Latvian Government issued a law on May 31, 1940 providing for forced labor service in Latvia. All able-bodied citizens of both sexes from 16 to 60 years of age must participate "with all their bodily and intellectual abilities" in raising and promoting the defensive and economic strength of the State when called upon by the latter for any service.

La 647 466

On June 7, 1940, a supplementary law was enacted providing that in the future all applicants for vacancies at public offices must prove that they have worked in agriculture for not less than 3 months within the preceding 3 years. Furthermore, all persons who have entered public service within the last 5 years and who, by October 1, 1941, are unable to show at least 3 months' work in agriculture are to be dismissed from service.

Registry of Skilled Workers in Lithuania [2]

Li 464

A law was passed on June 1, 1940, providing for registration of the skilled workers in Lithuania employed by shops and factories and those working independently, either as master craftsmen or craftsmen's helpers. All are to be required to pass an examination on their knowledge of and skill in their respective trades.

Li 464 647 466

There is to be appointed a Craftsmen's Registrar who will supervise individual craftsmen and workshops. Under penalty of a fine up to 500 lits,[3] these must supply the Registrar with information required

[1] Report of S. Walter Washington, American consul at Riga.
[2] Report of Basil F. Macgowan, American vice consul at Kaunas.
[3] Lit—about 17 cents.

p 591

3: Washington & Macgowan G-4, 5 (no date) 1940 RB1 Baltic Countries
Lithuania: RB5

[563]
464
649
466

under the law. To protect old craftsmen of minority nationalities who might find it difficult to pass the required examinations, especially in the Lithuanian language, the Registrar may permit persons with good qualifications, who have engaged in their craft for more than 5 years, to continue their work if there is a labor shortage in their respective trades. Such persons are to be included in a special list filed in the Registrar's office, and they will retain their titles if they continue their work during an additional 10 years to the satisfaction of the Registrar.

The law applies to approximately 23,000 skilled workers in Lithuania.

****